

Make A Difference By Telling Your Story



Stories connect us. They make us feel less alone.

You have an important story to tell. We will help you tell it.

Why Share Your Story?

This is a template for a slideshow to help you share your life with dyslexia.
Developed and written for dyslexics by dyslexics.

By sharing your story, you not only help others by helping to support them in sharing their story, but you also get to share your own story, which hopefully will help you get a better understanding of yourself.

In addition to helping others share their own stories, you also help raise awareness around dyslexia and help empower the dyslexic community by reducing the stigma.

How to Share Your Story Using These Slides:

- **Keep slides short.** But prepare in advance how you'll flesh out the bullet point.
- **Add photos.** Photos can help make your slides feel more alive.
- **Be descriptive.** Use small moments instead of generalization to make points come alive.
- **Practice.** Try talking to a mirror or videotape yourself standing up.
- **Use your natural voice.** As you present, pretend you're having a conversation with a friend.
- **Memorize your start.** The first minute is usually the hardest. So try to memorize the first 60 seconds.
- **Don't worry about being perfect.** The purpose of your talk is to raise awareness, counter myths and educate people, not to give a flawless performance. Keep the focus on the people you're trying to educate.
- **Be proud!** Know that your story will make a difference in someone else's life.

Resources to help you tell a good story

[Phil Handley](#): Examples of using comedy to tell your story

[Road Trip Nation](#): Many examples of stories of dyslexic individuals

[Make a Difference by Telling your Story](#): This guide will help you both prepare and present your story

[Ira Glass on Storytelling](#): This four part YouTube series can help you tell a good story

[Example of my Completed Slideshow](#): My personal story

My Life with Dyslexia

—

Name

List three specific moments when you noticed your learning difference:

Think of a couple of stories when you tried to hide dyslexia:

Who/what helped you before your diagnosis?

How did you feel when you got your diagnosis?

List three examples of how your life has changed since getting your diagnosis:

**Did you hide your diagnosis or were open about it?
What helped you feel like you could talk about it?**

Who/What helped you overcome the difficulties of your learning difference after your diagnosis?

Have you personally felt a stigma around your learning difference? How can we address/overcome a stigma as a community?

What are the advantages you have noticed as a result of your learning difference?

Dyslexia

—

William

List three specific moments when you noticed your learning difference:

- Knowing my left and right
- Tying my shoes
- Memorizing times tables



Think of a couple of stories when you tried to hide dyslexia:

- Tying my shoes
- Avoiding writing names



Who/what helped you before your diagnosis?

- My parents
- Reading tutor
- Speech therapy



How did you feel when you got your diagnosis?

- Relieved
- Validated
- Hopeful



List three examples of how your life has changed since getting your diagnosis:

- I now know my weaknesses and strengths
- I understand why I am who I am
- Extra time



Did you hide your diagnosis or were open about it? What helped you feel like you could talk about it?

- I hid it
- Finding a community



Who/What helped you overcome the difficulties of your learning difference after your diagnosis?

- Extra time
- Dyslexia tutor
- Support at school and at home



Have you personally felt a stigma around your learning difference? How can we address/overcome a stigma as a community?

- I felt stigmatized.
- Normalize that 1 in 5 students have dyslexia
- Point out their unique strengths



What are the advantages you have noticed as a result of your learning difference?

- Big picture thinking and making connections
- Ability to think outside the box
- Problem solving skills

